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TUESDAY.
FEBRUARY 16, 1954

I had lunch with Al Gruenther, Cort Schuyler, Freddie Reinhardt, and Colonel Kuntzig. We discussed EDC, wines, biographies, American history, and the great variety of subjects which always come up when Al turns his fertile and inquiring mind onto conversation. We talked over Al's letter to me at Berlin about C. D. Jackson and French industrialists.

Mr. Hayden of the Detroit News, who had just come down from Berlin, had a long talk with me about EDC.

This was followed by a visit from David Schoenbrun, who spent a couple of hours with me. He saw Laniel yesterday and is meeting him again Friday. He believes the Prime Minister will vigorously press for EDC ratification if nothing unexpected happens in the closing days of the Berlin Conference. I told him how strongly the Dutch, Belgian, and in fact the Governments of all countries interested in the EDC feel about the inadvisability of altering the text of the treaty. We went over the familiar ground of the pre-conditions that would have to be met before a favorable vote would be expected from the French National Assembly. I developed in great detail our views on this subject and what I thought the U. S. and U. K. Governments would be prepared to do. Also, I explained as thoroughly as I could Mollet's situation and requirements. We have been actively pursuing with Jean Monnet for the past week various approaches designed to satisfy Mollet's desire for democratic control to be exercised over the European Army and, I think, are close to an acceptable solution. Schoenbrun is cooperative and helpful in all these affairs and always brings in a quantity of interesting information regarding them.

I think our mission as a whole is operating ~~most usefully in connection with~~ its tasks. Ridge Knight's presence here is a boon to us for he is incessantly occupied in discussing our interests with French men and women, many of whom are old friends of his.

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Bidault will, upon his return here, be subjected to strong criticism unless he can successfully defend himself against charges brought by political adversaries that he has not pressed vigorously enough for a conference on Indo-China. I believe he can handle this, and the line he should take, in case a conference is agreed upon, is that precedent ratification of EDC by the French Parliament would be likely to secure stronger support from the U. S. Administration and Congress for the French position during Indo-China negotiations, than would otherwise be the case. but probably will not,

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